

Introduction

Today, in our study of the Epistle to the Ephesians, we shall reflect upon chapter three. Open the Holy Scriptures and keep them before you.

Review of the Structure of Ephesians

You may recall, when we began this epistle, we learned that it has six chapters, which we divided into **three major parts**:

Sit, Walk, and Stand.

We are seated with Christ in the heavenly realms—this is due to the power and experience of the Holy Spirit. We read the reference that Christ is in the heavens, and we are seated with Him in the spirit.

Walk Worthy of Your Calling

The second portion—**Walk**—shows that because of the blessings we have in Christ, because of the light and life we have received, our sins have been forgiven, our status has been changed.

We who were Gentiles, have now become one with the covenant people—with the Jews through Christ. His blessings have come to us as well.

Now we must manifest this life in the world.

We must walk in Christ, as it is written:

"Walk worthy of the calling wherewith you are called."

We learned:

- Do not walk as the Gentiles walk.
- Walk in love.
- Walk as children of light.
- Walk as wise, not unwise.

This is the second section of the epistle.

Stand Firm in Christ

The third part is **Stand**—translated in Urdu as "Qa'im Raho."

After doing all things, after overcoming the schemes of the devil, stand firm in Christ.

Stand in Jesus after you have defeated the plans of the devil.

Put on the full armour of God, fight, and remain steadfast.

Fulfil all the works of God, and **remain standing.**

The Prisoner of Christ for the Gentiles

Today we come to the final portion of the first part.
Let us read chapter 3.

"For this reason, I, Paul, the prisoner of Christ Jesus for you Gentiles..." (Ephesians 3:1)

Let me briefly explain to save time:
Paul the Apostle was in prison when he wrote this letter.
He was a prisoner of the Roman government—naturally speaking.

But Paul gives a different reason:

"I am a prisoner of Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles."

Though arrested by Rome, Paul sees his condition with spiritual eyes.

He sees that God Almighty is sovereign over all.
Rome could not imprison him unless it was permitted by God.

Honestly, I give thanks that Paul went to prison.
Had he not, we would not have these epistles. He wrote them under inspiration, and today we read them and receive spiritual truths and riches.

Paul's Calling and the Mystery of Grace

Paul says his calling is this:
God has given him knowledge of the grace that was entrusted to him for the Gentiles.
This grace includes the **Incarnation of Christ**.

"For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son..." (John 3:16)

This is grace—God's divine arrangement.
Jesus became flesh, lived a sinless life, died on the cross, was buried, rose again, ascended to heaven, and sent the Holy Spirit on the Church.

All of this is the expression of God's grace, through which we receive salvation.

The Mystery Revealed

Paul tells the believers:
Perhaps you have heard of this divine arrangement.

This is not emotionalism—this is a divine plan.

This mystery was revealed to Paul through **revelation**.
Jesus of Nazareth is a **mystery revealed**.
The Gospel is the mystery of God, and it has been unveiled to Paul.

Summary of Chapters 1 and 2

He writes a brief summary:

Before the foundation of the world, God chose us in Christ—that we might be holy, loving, and blameless, as His adopted sons and daughters.

He then speaks of Christ's resurrection, and how we were made alive with Him, forgiven, given a new nature, seated with Him in heavenly places.

Jews and Gentiles, having been reborn, were united to form one new man.
We are becoming a dwelling place for God in the Spirit.

Paul's Understanding of the Mystery

Paul says:

When you read what I have written, you will understand how deeply I comprehend this mystery of Christ.

Who revealed it to him?

God.

Christ gave him understanding— therefore, he feared neither suffering, nor death, nor prison.

Because the **power of the Gospel** had taken full hold of him.

The True Ministers of the Gospel

Even today, those who receive this light, do not live in fear.

They give testimony, proclaim the Gospel, endure loss, and pay the price.

They do not use the Gospel as a means for personal gain.

Rather, they labour for the salvation of souls, build churches, raise up ministers, and fill the world with the Disciples of Christ.

The Mystery Now Revealed to the Saints

In verse 5, Paul says:

This mystery was not revealed to the sons of men in previous generations, as it is now revealed to the holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit.

The Threefold Revelation of the Mystery

Now Paul explains the **mystery**:

Through the **Gospel**, those who believe—especially the Gentiles—experience **three things**:

1. **Fellow heirs** (they share in the inheritance)
2. **Members of the same body**
3. **Partakers of the promise**

This is profound.

Gentiles, whom the Jews despised as fit for hell, are now welcomed into the covenant. Just as some Christians in Pakistan may face disdain, the Gentiles were treated the same by the Jews.

Heirs of God through Christ

But through the **power of the Gospel**, and the **experience of grace**, what is the first thing that has happened?

They became heirs.

Romans chapter 8 tells us:

We are heirs of God and joint-heirs with Christ.

All that belongs to God—His glory, power, and riches—belongs to us in Christ.

By the power of the blood shed on the cross, we are the heirs of God.

Hallelujah!

True Riches in Christ

So then, can a born-again Christian truly be poor?

Certainly not.

He may have little money, but riches are not only monetary.

Riches include:

- A rich character
- A rich personality
- Rich values
- Rich, gracious speech
- A heart full of love and grace
- A living hope

These are riches that even billionaires may lack, but in Christ, we possess them.

A Glimpse of the Inheritance

A glimpse of this inheritance is found in 1 Peter chapter 1.

"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His great mercy has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead..." (1 Peter 1:3)

This is our foundation—that Jesus of Nazareth rose from the dead.

Hallelujah!

Part of the Church – Hallelujah!

"Now they have become part of His Church—Hallelujah! Hallelujah!" (43:05)

The Eternal Purpose of God

"Let it be made known—the mystery of the true intent, even the eternal purpose, which He purposed in Christ Jesus our Lord." (43:10-43:25)

"In Him, because of our faith in Him, what have we obtained?"

— Let all say boldly: By faith, we receive righteousness! Faith is confidence, faith is evidence, faith enlightens, and faith strengthens! Faith is our identity, and through it, we have access unto the Father. (43:33-44:02)

"It is He who has made us part of His body."

Do Not Faint Because of My Sufferings

"Verse 13—therefore I beseech you: do not lose heart at my tribulations for you." (44:10)

"Paul speaks of his suffering. One, he is imprisoned—this is tribulation indeed." (44:19)

"If you wish to understand the extent of it, read 2 Corinthians 11—how many beatings, how many stoning's, how much imprisonment, how much nakedness, how much deceit he endured for the sake of the Gospel." (44:26-44:40)

"Do not be disheartened because of the sufferings I bear for your sake—they are your glory." (44:48-45:00)

A Servant Who Did Not Compromise

"These sufferings of the apostle are a cause of honour for the believers. He endured pain, yet did not compromise the Gospel." (45:08-45:17)

The Apostle's Prayer before the Father

"Verse 14—for this because I bow my knees unto the Father." (45:25)

"It is because of these mysteries that I kneel before the heavenly Father," (45:37-45:54)

"From whom every family in heaven and on earth is named." (46:02-46:10)

The Source of All Fatherhood

"This means that the heavenly Father is the origin of all fatherhood." (46:49-47:26)

"All fathers receive their love from the heavenly Father."

"How many of you here are fathers? Do you not toil for your children? Yet you are satisfied and fulfilled by meeting their needs." (47:49-48:13)

"Why do we love? Because the One who created us loves us."

"It is written—which of you, if his son asks for bread, will give him a stone? Or if he asks for a fish, will give him a serpent?" (Luke 11)

"If you, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more shall your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him?" (49:05-49:15)

"Hallelujah! Hallelujah!" (49:27)

Paul's Four-Fold Prayer

"Verse 16—That He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory..." (49:35-49:47)

First Request: *"...to be strengthened with might by His Spirit in the inner man." (50:13-50:33)*

— *that you may be strong in your inner being, so that no trial, no affliction, no temptation would draw you away. You would be unshakable. (50:40)*

Second Request: *"That Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith..." (51:49-52:02)*

— *Christ will dwell in your hearts through faith.*

— *By the Holy Spirit's power, Christ dwells in you by faith. (52:13-52:20)*

— *So that you may be rooted and grounded in love. (52:28-53:00)*

— *Deep love in Christ by faith—not superficial, but deeply rooted.*

— *Being grounded in faith, you may comprehend with all saints what is the breadth, and length, and depth, and height of His love. (53:00-53:21)*

The Dimensions of Christ's Love

"In other words, that you may know the full measure of God's love:" (54:04)

— *its **length**—that He sent His Son from heaven. (54:16-54:25)*

— *its **breadth**—that He loved the whole world. (54:25-54:32)*

— *Its **height**—that He lifts up sinners, cleanses them, and seats them in heavenly places. (54:32-54:50)*

— *Its **depth**—that no matter how far one has fallen, God's love reaches into the depths, raises him up, and restores him. (54:56-55:11)*

"Hallelujah! Hallelujah!" (55:11-55:19)

Third Petition: Know the Love That Surpasses Knowledge

"Verse 19—that you may know the love of Christ, which surpasses knowledge." (55:24-55:40)

— *Abide in it. Clothe yourself with it.*

— *That you may be filled with all the fullness of God. (55:46-55:54)*

Fourth Petition: Be Filled with the Fullness of God

"Do not remain empty. Be filled with all the fullness of God." (56:01-56:17)

Doxology: Unto Him Be Glory Forever!

"Verses 20-21—Now unto Him who is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us..." (56:30-56:50)

"...Unto Him be glory in the Church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end. Amen!" (57:05-57:34)

"Let everyone say Amen!"